

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 483

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJ: SARDAR IBRAHIM SWORN IN AS NEW PRESIDENT
OF AZAD KASHMIR

REF: ISLAMABAD 4353

SUMMARY: IN COLORFUL MAZAFFARABAD CEREMONY
ATTENDED BY MANY AZAD KASHMIRI NOTABLES, SARDAR MOHAMMAD
IBRAHIM KHAN WAS SWORN IN AS AZAD KASHMIR'S NEW
PRESIDENT ON JUNE 5. IBRAHIM, ELECTED IN MAY 18 POLLS
AS CANDIDATE FOR UNITED FRONT (REFTEL), INDICATED
THAT THE PRIMARY TASK BEFORE THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD
BE TO CREATE A JUST SOCIO-ECONOMIC ORDER AND A MODEL
DEMOCRATIC AND ISLAMAIC FRAMEWORK IN AK AND TO CONTINUE
THE STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE INDIAN-OCCUPIED KASHMIR.
PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO SENT A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS
EXPRESSING HIS "SATISFACTIN" OVER THE ELECTION OF
IBRAHIM AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY, REITERATED
CENTURIES-OLD RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN THE
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PAKISTAN AND AZAD KASHMIRI PEOPLE, GOP ENCOURAGEMENT

TO THEIR "STRUGGLE" (BUT IN NOTABLY RESTRAINED PHRASING) AND PROMISES OF CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE "STATE". INAUGURAL SPEECH NOTE-WORTHY FOR NEW EMPHASIS ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTICE. BHUTTO'S MESSAGE APPEARED LOW-KEYED, DESIGNED TO AVOID APPEARING TO HAVE SPONSORED NEW PRESIDENT OR TO HAVE CREATED "PUPPET" AK GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. DAY'S PROCEEDINGS BEGAN WITH LARGE VEHICULAR PROCESSION FROM RAWALPINDI TO MUZAFFARABAD. THE NEW PRESIDENT WAS SWORN IN FOR FIVE YEAR TERM BY AK HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE SARAF. IN ATTENDANCE WAS NEWLY ELECTED ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, LEADERS OF FOUR PARTY ALLIANCE, HIGH AK CIVIL, \$.8)85-4Y OFFICIALS AND ELITE OF TOWN. GOP WAS REPRESENTED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS, CHAUDHRI JEANGIR ALI.

2. ALTHOUGH NEW AK GOVERNMENT (PRIME MINISTER, CABINET AND AK REPRESENTATIVES TO JOINT GOP/ AK COUNCIL) WILL NOT BE CHOSEN BY NEW ASSEMBLY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, IBRAHIM'S PREPARED ADDRESS SET FORTH HIS OWN IDEAS CONCERNING FUTURE AKG GOALS. IBRAHIM EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS, RULE OF LAW, AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM "FREE OF EXPLOITATION" AND IMPROVEMENT IN STANDARD OF LIVING THROUGH JUDICIOUS USE OF GOP-PROVIDED DEVELOPMENT FUNDS. HE ALSO NOTED THE NEED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE REFUGEES FROM "OCCUPIED" KASHMIR (IN REFERENCE TO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS FOR PROVISION OF LAND AND STIMULATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES). HE HOPED THAT AZAD KASHMIR COULD BE MADE A "MODEL OF INSPIRATION" HGO "OUR BROTHERS ACROSS THE CEASEFIRE LINE IN THEIR GREAT STRUGGLE". IBRAHIM HEAPED LAVISH PRAISE ON THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOP AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S SUPPORT TO CAUSE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, IBRAHIM USED OCCASION TO CASTIGATE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN FAMILIAR TERMS. HE PREDICTED THAT " THE IMPERIZKUMSTIC MIGHT OF INDIA WOULD BE BLOWN UP BY HISTORICAL PROCESS, BECAUSE FORCES OF

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IMPERIALISM EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD ARE MEETING THEIR ULTIMATE ENDS." HE OUTLINED HIS HOPE THAT THE AKG'S POLICY WOULD BE TO REVITALIZE THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF " OCCUPIED" KASHMIR AND MEGKE (A REUNITED) KASHMIR PART OF PAKISTAN. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ENDEAVOR TO PROJECT THE KASHMIR CASE IN THE WORLD, TO MUSTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. THE KASHNRRIS STRUGGLE HAD, HE CLAIMED, THE "FULL SYMPATHIES OF THE

FREEDOM-LOVING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE ISLAMIC WORLD,
THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA BESIDES THEIR PAKISTANI
BRETHREN..."

4. BHUTTO'S MESSAGE, READ OUT BY CHIEF SECRETARY, WAS
NOTICEABLY LOW-KEY. ACCORDING TO PAK TIMES ACCOUNT,
HE STRESSED THE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TIES OF THE TWO
PEOPLE AND SAID THEIR "DEYTYN" WAS THE SAME. HE
NOTED THAT THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR WERE NOT ALONE IN
THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, AND HOPED THAT
THEY WOULD "CONCLUDE THEIR STRUGGLE" AND "REACH THEIR
OBJECTIVE"-- A MUCH MORE RESTRAINED PHRASING OF THE
RHETORIC OF LIBERATION THAN HE OFTEN USES. MORE
SPECIFICALLY, HE PLEDGED HIS CONTINUING SUPPORT TO
AK DEVELOPMENT. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE
PEOPLE OF AZAD KASHMIR HAD "REPOSED THEIR CONFIDENCE"
IN SARDAR IBRAHIM AND THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE
STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

5. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT IBRAHIM'S SPEECH DIFFERED
FROM THAT OF SARDAR QAYYUM AT THE LATTER'S 1970
INAUGURATION WHICH WAS TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE
LIBERATION STRUGGLE. WHILE THIS ISSUE RETAINS GREAT
EMOTIONAL APPEAL, IBRAHIM PROBABLY REFLECTED GREATER
PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AND DESIRE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
MENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. THE ABSENCE OF HIGHER-
RANKING GOP OFFICIALS AND THE TONE OF BHUTTO'S MESSAGE
APPEARED DESIGNED TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN GOP AND
IBRAHIM (WHO WILL, IN SOME WAYS, BE A RIVAL TO THE 635-
TO-BE-SELECTED AK PRIME MINISTER--PRESUMABLY AN AK
PEOPLES' PARTY MAN) AND TO EMPHASIZE THE EXTENT OF
"SEPARATENESS" OF AZAD KASHMIR TO COUNTER (WELL-FOUNDED)
SUSPICIOUS HERE AND ABROAD AMONG GOP CRITICS THAT THE
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NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE A "PUPPET" OF THE BHUTTO
REGIME.
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